REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 20, 2003 (Paper No. 17). Claims 10 and 13 to 23 are in the Application, of which Claims 10, 13 and 14, the independent claims, are being amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 13 to 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,046,820 (Konishi) and U.S. Patent 5,933,676 (Ohno). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Generally, the present invention concerns a method of correcting image data using a server, which is connected to a client computer and an image forming unit via a network. More particularly, correction data is received by the server from an image forming unit, such as a printer, via the network. In addition, image data is received via the network by the server from a client computer. The server corrects the image data received from the client based on the correction data received from the printer. The server then outputs the corrected data to the printer via the network.

By virtue of this arrangement, the process of generating image data, generating correction data, and correcting the image data based on correction data in order to form an image is distributed across devices connected via a network, whereby the image forming unit is not burdened with correcting print data, for example.

Turning to the specific language of the claims, Claim 10 defines an image processing method which is applied in a server capable of being connected, through a network, to an image forming unit, which has a calibration function to obtain correction data by forming and measuring a patch and plural clients, and to plural clients. In an

- 7 -

obtaining step, the correction data is obtained by communicating with the image forming unit, through the network, wherein the correction data is automatically obtained from the image forming unit, which executes the calibration function in the image forming unit to obtain the correction data. In addition, a print job is received from the client, and a correcting step performs a correction process on image data included in the printing job, using the obtained correction data. The image data corrected in the correcting step is then output to the image forming unit.

The applied art, namely Ohno and Konishi, is not seen to teach or to suggest the above features of the claim at least with respect to the server that communicates with an image forming unit and a client to obtain correction data from the image forming unit and a print job from the client, performs a correction process to correct image data in the print job based on the obtained correction data, and then outputs the corrected image data to the image forming unit.

It is conceded in the Office Action, at page 3, that Konishi fails to disclose obtaining correction data from a printer. However, the Office Action states that Figure 5 and col. 8, lines 19 to 44 of Ohno discloses obtaining correction data from the image forming unit. Figure 5 and col. 8, lines 19 and 44 of Ohno are not seen to disclose obtaining correction data from an image forming unit, but are instead seen to describe a job management table stored in RAM 307 of the printer, which is used to manage a plurality of print jobs.

In addition, Ohno generally concerns a technique for calibrating an image forming unit by an external device, when the image forming unit detects a change in condition such as a change in temperature. More particularly, when the image forming unit

detects a condition change, it transmits a calibration request to the external device, and the external device generates the calibration data, and the printer performs calibration using the calibration data supplied to it by the external device. (See Ohno, Abstract, Figures 1 and 7, col. 4, line 60 to col. 5, line 12, and col. 10, lines 32 to 38.) An image forming unit generating a calibration request, in response to which the external device generates calibration data that is used by the image forming unit to perform calibration is not seen to be the same as a server obtaining correction data from an image forming unit and receiving a print job from a client, performing a correction process on the image data received from the client using the correction data obtained from the image forming unit, and transmitting the corrected image data to the image forming unit.

Konishi is also not seen to disclose a server obtaining correction data from an image forming unit and a print job from a client, performing a correction process on the image data based on the correction data received from the image forming unit and transmitting the corrected image data to the image forming unit. Konishi is instead seen to describe a printer connected to a computer whereby the printer sends correction data to the computer and the computer performs the correction.

Nothing in Konishi is seen to disclose a server that obtains correction data from an image forming unit and receives a print job from a client, performs a correction process on the image data received from the client based on the correction data received from the image forming unit, and then transmits the corrected image data to the image forming unit.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 13 and 14 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 70550 v 1

- 10 -